

BURNING VILLAGES INDICATE FURTHER WITHDRAWAL OF FOE

Gen. Foch's Forces, In Occupying Southern Bank of River, Have Made An Advance of 5 1/2 Miles From Hun Base of Supplies—Retirement of Crown Prince's Army Is Described As Being Very Rapid—French Have Made Extremely Important Gain Near St. Hilaire.

London, August 3—On the main battle front, in the Soissons region, the French after completing their occupation of Soissons have occupied the southern bank of the Aisne between Pommiers and Venizel, a distance of about five and a half miles, advices received today show.

On the easterly side of the Soissons-Rheims front the line to which the Allies have advanced runs from Serzy et Prin and Sivigny, both in the Ardre valley, to the highest point on the plateau between the Ardre and the Vesle, and thence to Rosnay, Guex and Thillois and on to the Vesle at St. Brice, which is on the original line.

On the northern end of the plateau to the southeast of Soissons the French have advanced from Venizel to a point south of Braine, on the Vesle. The advance is continuing on the line farther to the east.

Burning villages in the area north of the Vesle river, between Muzon and St. Thierry, indicates that a further withdrawal of the German forces is intended. Fourteen large fires have been observed. The important center of Fismes is in flames and there are great conflagrations in two villages to the northwest of that town.

The retirement of the forces of the German crown prince now appears to be of a very rapid character.

There has not been a great deal of fighting, certainly not in the area southeast of Soissons, and it is unlikely that any large capture of prisoners will be reported.

To the east of Rheims French forces have made an important recovery of ground, near St. Hilaire.

Paris, August 3—Throughout last night the Allies continued to advance toward the Vesle, the French war office announced today.

East of Soissons the French have reached the Aisne between Soissons and Venizel.

Many prisoners were taken by the French at Soissons which was occupied at 5 o'clock Friday evening, one hour after the Germans had been driven from the suburbs. Those of the garrison not captured escaped by fleeing northward.

It seems that the enemy did not expect to be chased from Soissons. There were no indications that preparations had been made for retirement and no fires were discovered anywhere.

On the left on Friday French cavalry and tanks kept in close pursuit of the enemy and inflicted heavy losses.

French troops, which are pursuing the Germans between Rheims and Soissons, have lost touch at no point with the rear guards of the enemy. The losses of the Germans are declared to be heavy, according to the Petit Journal.

The newspapers of Paris, commenting on the importance and significance of the battle, say its result surpasses considerably the highest hopes. The occupation of Soissons has made it certain that the Germans will be obliged to retire to the Aisne as they did in September, 1914, the newspaper says.

London, August 3—The German retreat is general on all three faces of the salient conquered by the Germans in May, and the Allies are pressing close on the heels of the retreating enemy, says Reuter's correspondent at French headquarters at midnight Friday.

After the fall of Soissons, the correspondent adds, French headquarters received the names of villages and woods reoccupied by the Allies with almost monotonous regularity.

"Plessier wood," he continues, "which abuts on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road, was turned early in the day and the defenders were surrounded. This wood was the center of the enemy resistance and the fight for it was extraordinarily bitter. Farther north the British troops crossed the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road and, pressing through the Concrois wood, soon were more than a mile east of Villettemontaire.

"As in March of last year, the French army is advancing in pursuit of the enemy with cavalry patrols far in advance, while the horse artillery and engineers accompany the infantry. Rain has fallen heavily all day, and the roads are in a state which sensibly retards the pace of our advance.

"The description given by the correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt of the destruction of towns, villages and farms by the enemy is true, and the destruction that the German boasts of is all the Germans gained by three great offensives, which cost them hundreds of thousands of killed, wounded and prisoners."

London, August 3—The Germans are executing a local retirement to the eastern bank of the Aisne, in the region of Albert, on a front of three or four miles, according to news received in London today.

The German hold on the west bank of the Aisne in this region has been precarious, and it seemed to be tenable only if it were intended to be made use of in the starting of an offensive. The retirement appears to indicate the abandonment of any attempt at an offensive in that quarter at present.

London, August 3—British patrols last night pushed their way forward in the Albert sector, north of the Somme, and occupied parts of the German front line, the war office announced today.

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, Friday, August 2, 11 p. m.—(By the Associated Press)—Much importance is attached to the advance of the Allied forces on the easterly side of the Soissons-Rheims front to the line of Guex and Thillois. It is pointed to as serving the double object of protecting Rheims and placing the Allies in a position to cripple still further the already badly crowded Germans in their retreat toward the Vesle.

U-BOAT SINKS MESSENGER OFF COAST OF MAINE

SMOKERS HARD HIT BY LUXURY LEVY

Cigarettes Taxed Up to 1 Cent, Cigars to 3 Cents Each.

Washington, Aug. 3—It is estimated by experts that the additional taxes laid yesterday on tobacco, cigars and cigarettes will aggregate in revenue \$112,000,000. The higher levies carried in existing law brought in for a twelve-month period \$165,000,000.

Under the advanced rates fixed by the Ways and Means Committee, the tobacco schedule is expected to add to the Treasury to the extent of \$340,000,000.

The entire day was devoted to tobacco. It was realized at the outset that ruthlessness must characterize the new figures. Many hard knocks must be given in framing a bill intended to bring in \$5,000,000,000. No item of luxury and few of necessity can be ignored.

Although tobacco is near kin to the poor man's breakfast table, no favoritism was shown in boosting the levies. The taxable theory was that tobacco is a non-essential and must stand the oblong of being not far removed from the luxury list.

The favorite increase yesterday was two and a half times the present rate of taxation. The rate on one grade of cigarettes was quadrupled. A considerable degree of leniency was shown those cigars that do not weigh more than three pounds a thousand. The rate merely was doubled, being advanced from \$1 to \$2 a thousand.

The most favoritism was manifested toward cigars weighing more than three pounds a thousand, and retailing at not more than 4 cents each. The tax on this grade was moved up from \$3 to \$4 a thousand.

It is supposed that these two grades cover all the cheaper form of cigars, and will meet the requirements of those unable to pay more for their smokes.

Cigars retailing at more than four cents, and not exceeding 7 cents each, hereafter will be taxed \$10 a thousand, instead of \$4, as at present. Such cigars as bring from 7 to 15 cents each at retail must pay a levy of \$15 a thousand in the future. Under existing law, the rate is \$6 a thousand.

The grades of cigars selling at from 15 to 20 cents each will be \$20 a thousand, instead of \$8 under the rates now in effect. All cigars selling at more than 20 cents each must pay a tax of \$30 a thousand. This is treble the present rate.

Cigarettes were given the hardest bump of all. Those selling at 2 cents or more each were advanced in taxable rate from \$2.05 to \$8 a thousand. The rate on such cigarettes as weigh not more than 3 pounds a thousand, and retail not at less than 2 cents each, was increased from \$2.05 to \$5 per thousand. All cigarettes weighing more than 3 pounds to the thousand must hereafter pay a tax of \$10, instead of \$4.80, a thousand.

The smoker who rolls his cigarette must pay exactly double the tax for his accessories. No time was wasted in figuring out this feature of the schedule. The matter was just lumped and the rate on cigarette makings doubled all along the line. In future the tax will be:

"On each package, book or set containing more than 25 but not more than 50 papers, 1 cent; containing more than 50 but not more than 100 papers, 2 cents; containing more than 100 papers, 3 cents for each 100 papers or fractional part thereof, and upon tubes, 4 cents for each 100 tubes or fractional part thereof."

The rates on tobacco were increased from 13 to 20 cents per pound. No figures have been prepared by the experts indicating what sum will be realized from the special taxes imposed on manufacturers of tobacco.

Champaign, Ill., Aug. 2—Cadet S. W. Rodgers of Mass. was killed last night in an airplane accident at Chanute field.

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Crew of Schooner Reports Attack Took Place Near Grand Manan.

LURKING AT MOUTH OF BAY OF FUNDY

Men Aboard Escaped In Boats and Landed at Life-saving Station.

Eastport, Me., Aug. 3—The crew of nine men from a lumber laden four-masted schooner were landed in Grand Manan, N. B., today. They reported that their vessel was sunk by a submarine last night between Briar Island and Grand Manan.

The submarine was lurking at the entrance of the Bay of Fundy through which shipping from St. John, N. B., arrives in the open sea. The mouth of the bay, which extends between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, is 40 miles wide, but the passage, which is deep, is comparatively narrow. Submerged ledges extend far into the bay from each coast and the channel is a dangerous one for skippers to whom it is not thoroughly known.

Grand Manan Island is eight miles east of the eastern extremity of Maine and Briar Island, N. S., is 25 miles south east of Grand Manan, on the eastern side of the Bay of Fundy.

The schooner was bound from St. John, N. B., for a port to the westward. The crew escaped in one of the boats and landed at the life-saving station on Grand Manan Island. The name of the schooner and details of the sinking were withheld.

Washington, Aug. 3—After removing a quantity of provisions from an American lumber laden schooner near the Maine coast yesterday morning the crew of a German submarine set fire to the vessel, the navy department was informed today by the commandant of the First Naval district. The name of the schooner was not given.

The vessel sunk was the British schooner Dornfontein.

**MAY CONFISCATE
GERMAN CLOTHES**

Amsterdam, Aug. 3.—Threats of coming confiscation of the contents of German wardrobes, in order to collect 1,000,000 civilian suits for war workers, are the subject of satire in many of the newspapers in Berlin and elsewhere.

The Vorwarts chuckles over the possibility that von Hertling may have to appear at Court in patched pants and that von Kuehlmann may arrive at the Peace conference with holed elbows. One humorist suggests that to save clothes all persons over 55 years of age be ordered to remain in bed until eighteen months after the war. Another recommends widespread cultivation of the fig tree.

The threats have, however, had effect. In Munich, it is reported, thirteen thousand complete suits have been given up although only 11,500 were demanded.

Berlin is still hopelessly behind and many complaints of unfairness are made about the number of suits required from the metropolis, eight times more than was demanded from Munich whereas Berlin is only four times the size of Munich.

Complaints are manifest of hardships on the lower and middle classes. Radical newspapers accuse the authorities of undue consideration to the wealthy classes.

On the other hand, one of the Emperor's Court Chamberlains indignantly writes to the papers that he offered a good suit with the lining somewhat damaged but it was refused and he is now wearing it himself daily.

**HE IMPERSONATED
OFFICER, CHARGE**

New London, August 2—Beatrice P. Burke of 336 Fifteenth avenue, Newark, N. J., was presented before United States Commissioner Frank L. McGuire on the charge of impersonating an officer of the United States army and with violating the act of May 18, 1917, regarding lewd conduct within a certain radius of a certain radius of an army and navy camp.

continued the case until August 17 and held the accused in bonds of \$5,000.

28 PLAYERS SOON TO LIVE SOLDIERS

Form First Group to Be Sent By League to Entertain.

Twenty-eight actors and actresses of note soon will be entertaining American soldiers and sailors in Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. huts and Red Cross hospitals overseas, says the New York World. The party is the first to be sent across by the "Over There" League formed in May, of which George M. Cohan is President, and E. F. Albee, head of the United Booking Offices, is Vice President.

The party, which travels without stage properties or costumes, owing to space restrictions, is divided into five units, each to tour practically the entire expeditionary force. The attractions are rich and a quarter hours long, which coincides with the period between "chow" and taps.

In the first group are Will M. Cressy, Blanche Dayne, Corinne Francis, Tony Hunting, Harry Adler, David Lerner, Paula Sherman, Alfred Armand, Hal Pierson, D. C. MacIver, Howard T. Collins, Helene Davis, Geo. A. Moore, Leo Donnelly, Helen Goff, Irene Franklin, Burton Green, Kelly and Pollock, William J. Kennedy, Margaret Mayo, Elizabeth Brice, Will Morrissey, Inez Wilson, Henry Souvaline, Madeleine Glyn, Amy Norton and Kate Condon.

Rehearsals of the acts have been supervised by Winthrop Ames and Jas. Forbes at the Little Theatre and have received "tryouts" at nearby camps.

About 500 stage players have volunteered for the work and infrequently giving up large salaries to draw the regulation pay of \$2 a day given by the league, travelling expenses being paid by the Y. M. C. A. The enlistment is for a minimum of three months, but members of the present party have agreed to stay "as long as the boys wish."

The league also supplies coaches to train soldiers to stage their own shows. For this purpose costumes and wigs are needed, particularly those suitable for minstrel and comedy work. Managers and costumers in New York have been generous in giving such material, and twenty crates have been shipped, but more is in demand. Such articles may be sent to the Little Theatre.

FOIL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY U. S. TROOP TRANSPORT

An Atlantic Port, Aug. 3.—An anarchist plot to destroy an American troop transport is believed by the authorities to have been frustrated today with the arrest of a man who said he was Frederick Rouchat. The prisoner, caught climbing a rope ladder up the side of the steamer, a former German liner, said he had been selected by lot to blow up the vessel.

GAYLORD HOMESTEAD BURNS.

Bristol, Aug. 3—An early morning fire destroyed the Gaylord homestead in Burlington avenue. The tenants, Albert Newell and John Mugget, employed by C. E. Gaylord, the owner, with their families lost their effects, valued at \$1,500. The house was worth \$4,000.

INTERNATIONAL EGG CONTEST

In the thirty-ninth week of the contest at Storrs the Leghorns made a clean sweep for the week with but one exception, namely the Oregons. Pen 73, A. P. Robinson, Calverton, N. Y., won first place with a total of 51 eggs. Pen 87, Oak Hill Estate, Uniontown, Pa., was second with 50 eggs. Pen 53, Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Ore., 59 Exmoor Farms, Lebanon, Pa., and 65 Greendale Farms, Greendale, N. Y., were all tied for third place with a weekly production of 49 eggs each. Five pens of Leghorns were tied for fourth place with a production of 48 eggs for the week. The following pens were the winners of fourth place: 64, G. P. Platt, Wallingford, Pa.; 66, Dautrich Bros., Winsted, Ct.; 78, E. A. Ballard, Chestnut Hill, Pa.; and 90, W. E. Kieft, Springfield, Ill.

The total production for the week was 3335 eggs, or 47.6 per cent. One change has taken place among the three best pens in the Rhode Island Reds. Pen 46, Pequot Poultry Farms, Southport, Conn., has taken the place of pen 36, Chas. H. Lane, Southboro, Mass. No other change has taken place among the three best pens in each of the principal varieties.

For the last few weeks the hens seem to continue to fall off in their producing ability which only goes to show that some hens are not doing much toward filling the egg basket. Most of the hens that are not laying are just slackers. Consequently from now on it is very desirable that these poor producers be eliminated from the flock in order to produce the greatest quantity of eggs at the least possible cost. The culling demonstrations have proven that it pays. At a recent culling bee 826 hens were court-martialed as being slackers from a flock of 1403. The results of this demonstration showed that the egg production for the week previous to the demonstration was 2100 eggs, or an average of 309 per day. The egg production for the week following the demonstration was 2395, or an average of 342 per day.

AMERICANS ADVANCE MORE THAN 5 MILES ON THE MAIN FRONT

From Northwest of Soissons to Rheims Gain By Allies for Distance of 35 Miles Is to Depth of 3 on Entire Sector—Fall of Soissons, Which Enemy Has Held Since May 29, Is Serious Menace to Line of Vesles, Is Belief.

(By the Associated Press)

Soissons has fallen and the German salient south of the Aisne seems to be doomed.

Allied hammer blows have had their effect and the Germans are retreating precipitately toward the north. French, American and British troops are moving forward rapidly and continue their pressure strongly at all points.

On a front of 35 miles from northwest of Soissons to Rheims the Allied advance already average more than three miles on the entire distance. American troops in the center gained more than five miles. Cavalry again is used for the first time since the opening day of Gen. Foch's offensive on July 18, which already has crushed German hopes of a successful offensive and is turning into a disastrous defeat for the enemy.

While the German crown prince made strong efforts to maintain a front between Fere en Tardenois and Ville en Tardenois, his position was made untenable by the Allies successes of earlier in the week in which the Americans played no small part. His center was smashed at a vital point and the southern end of the western flank was turned by French and British capture of the Chalmont spur northeast of Fere.

Retreat was inevitable with Allied pressure giving no sign of letting up. So the Allies are moving northward along the whole front, capturing guns and material and probably many prisoners cut off in the valleys and woods which fill the terrain between the Aisne and the Marne.

Latest unofficial reports placed the advancing French, American and British soldiers on a line from Pommiers to Soissons, to Belleu, the valley of the Crise, Chacrise, Arcy St. Restitut, Loupeigne, Mareuil en Dole, Dravegny, Moine wood, Lhery, Trameray, Treslon, Guex, Thillois, and north of Rheims. This is somewhat north of the line as reported in the French official statement, Friday night, but most probably indicates gains made later. This line has just a slight curve as compared with the original pocket and virtually wipes out the flanks east and west.

Fismes, the main German base on the Vesle, is six miles north of Moine wood, through which French cavalry are reported to have penetrated. Large fires have been seen at various points within the German lines, especially near Fismes. Heavy explosions also have been heard, indicating the Germans are preparing to fall back still farther north.

Southeast of Soissons the French and British have been advancing against more or less opposition. The French and Americans in the center are reported to have met with slight German resistance after the stubborn fighting of previous days in the region of Fere. Southwest of Rheims the advance also has been slower than in the center.

LIGGETT IN COMMAND OF SMASHING YANKEES

General Heads Americans Who Have Blasted Their Way Five Miles Into Enemy's Territory, In Centre of Advance.

Washington, August 3—Maj. Gen. Hunter Liggett, commanding the First American army corps, is in active charge of that corps on the center of the Allied drive in the Aisne-Marne salient. Gen. March, chief of staff, told newspaper correspondents today at the semi-weekly conference at the war department.

The American divisions forming this corps are serving continuously on this sector, the control of which is in the hands of Major Gen. Liggett, as commander of the first major American unit to get into action in France. Gen. Pershing, as a result of recent transfers of American divisions which had been brigaded with the British, now has 1,000,000 men under his direct command, the chief of staff said.

Total embarkation of American troops during July broke all records, it was announced officially, more than 300,000 men having been shipped. The number of American divisions actively engaged on this sector has been increased to eight, now including the First, Second, Third and Fourth regulars and the 26th, 28th, 32nd and 42nd National Guard. General March announced that it was the 42nd division that met and defeated the Prussian Guard during the present week.

The grand total embarked to the end of July has passed the 1,300,000 mark. The previous high monthly record was for June, when 276,000 men were sent overseas.

Discussing the fighting, Gen. March said official dispatches covering the battles to August 2 showed the present front running virtually parallel to the old and Ardre valleys, the next defensive line of the enemy. At the time the advancing forces were within six miles of this line. Later dispatches, however, have indicated that the Vesle-Ardre line may have been turned already.

The objective of the American and Allied armies is still the destruction of the enemy's army, Gen. March said. The maximum retreat of the enemy up to August 2 measured 16 miles the total length of the Aisne-Marne salient having been reduced from 74 miles to 48 miles.

The French and British pounding at both flanks of the salient, Gen.